

RESEARCH PAPER

# Kashmir War & Frontier Militia

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Role of Frontier Militia in the First Kashmir War  
1947-1948

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Frontier Militia of Rifles and Scouts play a key and decisive role in the liberation of Kashmir

## 1948 KASHMIR WAR

Kashmir a land locked Himalayan kingdom comprising of 86000 square kilometres that includes from the west where it borders with Afghanistan at an altitude of over 7000 feet, where Hunza state a predominantly Shia Muslim of Agha Khan sect also marks the boundary with Chinese Sinkiang province and runs over the extreme wilderness, a mass of mountains that include K-2 the second highest peak in the world and over the Broad Peak, Hidden Peak both over 8000 meters high, the world's largest glaciers out side polar region namely Siachen is also in the path of this imaginary line that also runs over the Aksai Chin plateau, Laddakh and moving further east it finally merges with the low land Himalayan mountain that veers off at Punjab, its southern edges are the very edges of the mountain range that separates the agriculture based Punjab from the hilly Kashmir. that thus extends from this crescent edge that is the life line of both the Moen o Daro and Harappa civilisations that flourished on the very first western river the Mighty Indus, on whose banks as it gushes down into Soan Civilisation, the very heart of the Buddhist empire of Asoka at Taxila close to Rawalpindi. The very next river is the famous Jhelum of Alexander the Great, here he defeated King Poros of India and later Alexander traversed down slope into Multan and then along Indus to Thatta, River Chenab is the third waterline of Kashmir that irrigates the granary of India, Ravi River on whose bank is the Lahore the capital of the Afghan and Moghul empires, Sutlej and Beas Rivers are the other two, which in totality makes Punjab, the land of five rivers. it is close to historical Multan where Indus joins with Jhelum and others. The Punjabi rivers flows approximately 300-400 Kilometres, and this merger marks the Harrapan and Moen jo darian civilisation, both depends upon the very water that originates from those glaciers in high mountains of Kashmir.

The Mongol invasions and especially the Tamerlane's holocaust of 1399 AD in which over 1,00,000 exclusive Hindu women, children and old male prisoners were slaughtered in one night<sup>1</sup>, however the Syed Muslims were spared all along his invasion route. Kashmir remained unmolested, it never invaded the plains of Punjab the way Afghans did, thus an image of docility shrouded their character, Babur came from Fergana in the present day Tajikistan, and by 1526 he defeated the sultan of Delhi Ibrahim Lodhi in the plains of Punjab,

It was Akbar the great who captured Kashmir in 1556 AD and from that time onward it remained under the governorship of either Moghuls or Afghans. Sikh religion also took birth in Punjab in the same period and later expanded among the peasantry the Jats. Which in later years remained confined to Punjab and although there is a considerable population of Sikhs in Canada and United Kingdom but these are the immigrants, no Sikh culture expanded into the Indus Civilisation, certain hill tribes of Kashmir most notable the Dogras of Jammu and Sandias of Poonch. During the reign of Jahangir the Sikh guru Arjun Singh<sup>2</sup> was tortured to death for his alleged support to the Jahangir's rebellious son Khurram was the historical accident as it put the Sikh religion against the Islam. Sikkim was influenced by the Islam in

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<sup>1</sup> Tamerlane's autobiography Tuzk-e- Taimouri p 67.

<sup>2</sup>South Asia Narrative,,p,139

its infancy, the thoughts of Sufi saints Bullay Shah are integral part of Granth Sahib, the foundation stone of Golden Temple the Mecca of Sikhs was laid by a Muslim saint Mian Mir, the land being given by Akbar the Great. The acts of Tamerlane, Jahangir and later Aurangzeb had two varying impact on the culture of the empire, a sense of deep insecurity was embossed on the non Muslims especially the Hindus and Sikhs on religious matters, on the other hand the supremacy of Islam and that of their non tolerance of other religions especially the brutality, ruthlessness and a disregard to humanity as displayed by the central Asian blood line rulers also created a superiority aura around the Muslims. Kashmir again displayed a unique sense of peace-loving Muslims living and ruling Hindus and Buddhists, Kashmiri Islamic brand was influenced by the Central Asian Sufi saints, this face of Islam was more tune to the geography of the mountainous region and more accommodative, yet it remained fundamental in nature, both Sunnis and Shias lived and fought on regular basis especially in days of muhaaram, the worst were the riots of 1886 in Srinagar.

**IN 1800 WITH** Mughal emperor practically confined to Delhi, and rest of Punjab in a state of anarchy after the Abdalli's ravage of Delhi under the Afghan governors at Lahore and Multan, a young Sikh, Ranjeet Singh captured Lahore and became Maharaja and the very first Sikh empire was founded that became a challenge to the Muslims, this Sikh empire that lasted till 1846, six more years then Maharajah Ranjit Singh incorporated, captured, annexed, subjugated, ruled from Kabul {for a short period} in west, Gilgit, Laddakh, Srinagar, Jammu in north, Multan in south and under 1807 treaty with British East Company {the Christians who having arrived in subcontinent in 15<sup>th</sup> century from Portugal, Spain, England, Netherland and France as traders finally culminated in the superiority of the British soldiery, firepower and discipline, who by this year were the kingmakers} that limits Singh's eastern boundary and influence till Sutlej. It was in 1820 that Ranjeet Singh was able to conquer the vale of Kashmir and later instead of keeping it under his direct control at Lahore; he rather made Ghulab Singh a Sikh Dogra chieftain of Jammu state. Statesman ship, diplomacy and bravery were the hallmarks of Ranjit Singh's rule and personality, he was handicapped with one eye, a fundamentalist Sikh yet as a ruler he set the very first example and conduct of a Sikh state and how the Hindus and Muslims will be treated in it and this later became a pattern in other Sikh states. Ranjit Singh had Muslim advisers most notable among them the Fakir brothers, Ranjeet was careful with money and instead of bearing the cost of garrisoning he preferred annual tax, he did this with Bahawalpur a desert state and mountainous Kashmir.

**RANJIT SINGH** in a sense reflects the culture and mind set of a Punjabi who prefers his plain, green fields more than the mountains or desert, Punjabi lived on the land, irrigating it with ever flowing ever present fresh water of Kashmir. Ranjeet Singh did a lot to improve the irrigation system and so were the British who in 1846 were able to annex Punjab after a series of battles that took place at Chillianwala and Sobraon. Later both races, cultures and religions developed a deep trust and mutual respect for each others bravery and martial skills, at this decisive moment of sub continental history neither any Muslim nor any Hindu state came to the rescue of Punjab empire further more even Raja Ghulab Singh remained aloof from this war, he was able to negotiate later the purchase of Kashmir Vale from British East India Company for 85 lakh rupees {present day US\$1, 000, 00}.

Ghulab Singh was as brave as Ranjit Singh, he had no other option but to expand and explore towards north, east and west as in south the British had the plains of Punjab. Ghulab Singh's forces majority of them Sikhs but also Muslims as well, captured Laddakh, Gilgit, and ventured into Tibet as well. These were the areas, cultures and civilisations about which very little was known in the west. The European continental rivalry had its effects on the India as well, first it was the threat of Napoleon in 1807 which compelled British East India Company to send diplomats and explorers into Baluchistan and make treaties with Sikhs,<sup>3</sup> it also resulted in the First Anglo Afghan war as well later the fear of Czars replaced Napoleon and with this shift in paradigm the Kashmir especially its north western borders assume greater urgency and a great game started Kashmir also became the focal point of India's trade with central Asia albeit as an alternative to the much easy and economical route that passes through Khyber or Bolan passes. Kashmir which was ruled by Dillip Singh after Gulab Singh and his heirs later buckle under Raj's pressure and British explorers were allowed map the territorial boundaries of the Raj's empire, to station the British resident and in 1895 to have a residency with British officer and Dogra troops at Gilgit. Kashmir and few other states like Hyderabad Deccan, Kalat among over 550 other states that ranged from few kilometres in area to size equal or more than the British isles had varying degree of autonomy depending on the financial and cultural mind set of Viceroy who was all powerful and all princely rulers owe their rule to the Crown.

**AMONG ALL THE STATES** Kashmir was the only major state that had a strategic geographical location and importance; it borders with Sinkiang province of China and Eastern Turkmenistan both predominating Muslims. The very first process of demarcating the eastern boundaries of India with Afghanistan and China resulted in 'Durand Line 1893'<sup>4</sup> as an aftereffect of military campaign with Afghanistan.

After settling the playing arena the Great Game started its second chakkar, that dictated extension of Raj's boundary and that necessitated a Crown's presence at Gilgit which was established for a short life in 1870. Viceroy constitutionally castrated maharaja of Kashmir and Colonel Algernon Durand led the expedition through Rawalpindi- Srinagar- Gilgit in 1892-95 to establish a listening post for any Russian attack on India, in the process Hunza & Nagar states one of the last high mountain states that controlled passes that can allow any military or trade movement had to be subjugated. Durand Line had mark the western borders of India but northern were not demarcated and this created an opportunistic air among crown's representatives. Hunza had been playing a duel game the tracts across Khunjerab Pass had been a source of pride if nothing else for the Mir and British played the harp as long as they could and finally in 1914 much controversial McMahon's Line with China which kept on stretching depending upon the strategic harmony between the foreign office of India and Viceroy. 'A constant struggle to raise a stretch of Frontier 300 miles in length from a condition of incessant war, anarchy, and oppression into a state of fairly

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<sup>3</sup> Army Publishing House, *Campaigns of The Second Afghan War 1878-80*, pp25-37

<sup>4</sup> Alastair Lamb, *Kashmir A Disputed Legacy 1846-1990*, {Oxford, Karachi, 1991} p, 32.

established peace',<sup>5</sup> Chinese had a different version of the boundary, the claims of Hunza were fiercely contested and remained so till transfer of power from Raj to dominions of India and Pakistan. The same boundary issue was present at the area east of Laddakh in Aksai Chin area, where boundary of Kashmir or India was based upon an old map of 1865 drawn by the British geologist Johnson<sup>6</sup>, it was a rough sketch, later the route of Aksai Chin was used by the Muslim warlords of Kashgaeria and eastern Turkmenistan while taking a sanctuary in Kashmir.

In 1935 British India and Maharaja Harri Singh signed a lease under which Gilgit Ggency {including Hunza} was taken on 60 years lease by the Raj, the Gilgit Scouts were already raised in 1915, consisting of local natives {six hundred in number} commanded by the British officers and mainly funded by the J&K state. The only two routes from India to China passes through Kashmir, the most easterly is the Jammu from Katoha in the Gurdaspur District, rail link goes from Sialkot to Jammu and from here the movement towards Srinagar is possible in fair weather due to intervening Banihal Pass, the most common route is from Rawalpindi along River Jhelum to Srinagar and then to Gilgit via Bunji and onwards to China.

Concept of Pakistan or amalgamation of Muslim majority provinces of west into an autonomous sovereignty either alone or part of the India was first floated in 1930 by Dr Iqbal at the annual meeting of Muslim League which claimed to be the only representative of the Indian Muslims later in 1940 a resolution was passed by the same party at Lahore.

Political system that evolved out of the 1857 war of independence or sepoy mutiny ushered India into a constitutional country, this transition resulted in various acts and regulations of Westminster, Indian national congress was established in 1877 the very first political party of India under a British civil servant, educational institution including exclusive Muslim college at Aligarh were created, in 1906 an exclusive Muslim political party the all India Muslim league was baptised by the viceroy who also consented on the idea of having separate electorates for the Muslims of India and acknowledging the fact that despite their numerical inferiority they deserve 'weightage' in any advisory or legislative body or assembly thus laying the foundation stone for two nation theory which was later championed by the Muhammad Ali Jinnah who became the father of nation for Pakistan and strongly opposed by Mahatma Gandhi and congress, this attitude went through a see - saw which finally culminated in congress agreeing<sup>7</sup> to separation and transfer of power to two different constituent assemblies. Government of India Act of 1935 laid the road map for future India

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<sup>5</sup> Algernon Durand, *THE MAKING OF A FRONTIER FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCES AND ADVENTURES IN GILGIT, HUNZA NAGAR, CHITRAL, AND THE EASTERN HINDU-KUSH* {Services Book Club 1992}p,1.

<sup>6</sup> . Alastair Lamb, *Kashmir Legacy 1846-1990*, p,78.

<sup>7</sup> Syed, Ikram, *Modern Muslim India And the Birth Of Pakistan* {Islamic Culture, Lahore, 2000}pp 5,8-43.

which it envisaged a federation with autonomous provinces and a centre dealing with communication, defence and foreign affairs. In the 1937 elections Muslim League was defeated in almost all provinces less Sindh, however the fortunes changed dramatically when Congress resigned from ministries soon after declaration of war by the Indian Government and Jinnah was more than willing to become the 'Devil's advocate' later Congress adopted a non cooperation attitude towards war effort and Muslim league threw its unflinching support for the same cause, it was this political background that finally resulted in Labour's Atlee at Downing Street to finally accede to the fact that with almost bankrupt British economy it is not feasible to hold on to the empire and independence for India was announced ,rising communal riots in 1946 lead to the decision on part of congress that instead of giving the whole provinces like Punjab and Bengal to Pakistan it will be more appropriate to demarcate them on the basis of Muslim and non Muslim population.

### TRANSFER OF POWER 1947

Lord Mountbatten the last viceroy of India announced the plan on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1947<sup>8</sup> and later in a press conference highlighted his plan of transfer of power which he advanced from June 1948 to August 1947, the independent states that included Kashmir and Jammu state had the option of either joining either dominion or remain independent, however the last option of any state was never seriously considered and all princely states were expected to join. There were no conditions on the ruler regarding his choice of accession ,it was presumed that logic would prevail upon all and these rajas will follow the rule of majority thus Muslim majority state of J&K to join Pakistan and Hindu majority states of Hyderabad and Junnagarh to join India in all the cases cited the rulers were from minority .

Kashmir had evolved its own distinct political system which was not much different from the other states of its size like Hyderabad Deccan yet due to its strategic location and ethnic distribution Kashmir state was unique in India, the first political party in Kashmir was formed in 1931 when a serious riots broke out in Kashmir<sup>9</sup> over a mosque issue the crisis ended with over thirty rioters being shot dead, the two main political parties were National Congress which was ideologically closed to Indian Congress it was led by Sheikh Abdullah who had a master's degree in chemistry from Aligarh College he became a focal point in Kashmir politics he remained in and out of Maharaja's prison on quite a regular basis, Sheikh was initially employed as a school headmaster but his marriage with a rich family made politics rather easy for him, sheikh had rather liberal views about the religion and communal issues in a sense he was a combination of both Jinnah and Nehru,he was the youngest of the three.

Muslim conference was the other major political party that became politically aligned with Jinnah's Muslim League .Kashmir political system in 1947 was autocratic in nature with a prime minister heading the cabinet, all powers remained in the hands of the Maharajah, State had its own well equipped army and civil service, the observation of the travellers and government officials was very poor about the human rights in the state<sup>10</sup> especially the plight

<sup>8</sup> *Partition Of Punjab Official Papers* ,pp 45-65.

<sup>9</sup> Lamb ,Kashmir Disputed Legacy,p,89.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid,p,87

of the Muslim population, but keeping in view the geography, history, economy of the state there seems to be little options available to the rulers. Kashmir had two general elections in which through a complicated system of voting and nomination an elected legislative assembly of Kashmir was in sitting. The logical perception of all the leaders especially the Muslims was absolutely correct to look forward in having state of Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan.

The attitude of Mountbatten towards the Kashmir in those critical days is still under research, he was certainly conscious of the strategic value of Kashmir basing upon his 3<sup>rd</sup> June plan there is no reason not to believe that he {Mountbatten} must be convinced that Kashmir is going to Pakistan. For the demarcation of the area {Punjab and Bengal} a boundary commission was set up under Sir Cyril Radcliffe a prominent lawyer, his mandate was 'To demarcate the boundaries on the general principles of Muslim and non Muslim population and keeping other factors'.<sup>11</sup>

The land routes from united India to Kashmir and Central Asia all were bound to go into Pakistan i.e. Sialkot- Jammu and Rawalpindi-Srinagar and they eventually did so however a small strip of land in a Muslim majority district Gurdaspur was awarded to India and as such a road link was given to India, this award was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1947 and immediately it further fuelled the already explosive communal atmosphere ,trains of Muslim refugees were burnt ,looted, raped, killed and abducted in Sikh states adjoining the Pakistan in east Punjab especially the Patiala.<sup>12</sup>

**KASHMIR DID NOT ACCEDED** to any of the dominion and signed a standstill pact with Pakistan to ensure that all services operate as per routine, all the economic related activities had to be generated through Pakistan that include postal, banking, insurance, fuel, food and spares for the machinery. It further strengthened the Pakistani perception of Kashmir's logical accession. Politically Kashmir was agitated, Sheikh Abdullah was imprisoned and his political party had boycotted the elections held in 1945-46. The Muslim Conference took part and had a majority in the legislative assembly of the state. From July onwards there was an unrest in the state which is quite predictable as the people of Kashmir especially the Muslims looked forward to joining the Pakistan, on the other hand it seems quite probable that maharajah was seriously thinking of maintaining its independence, he was convinced that his any form of survival at the power is best assured only in his being independent. Sir Harri Singh is not to be blamed for adopting this stance, from his perceptive nothing new has happened rather the only check on his total autocratic rule in the form of British Resident will

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk> **Indian Independence Act 1947** {accessed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010} also see Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema *The Politics of the Punjab Boundary Award working Paper No 1, September 2000*, {University of Heidelberg}

<sup>12</sup> Discussions of The Kashmir Dispute in The Security Council *Security Council Official Records Third Year 6<sup>th</sup> January 1948-29<sup>th</sup> December 1949* {Lake Success, New York} p.43.

not be seen any more, the paramountcy of Raj will be vanished and nothing more than that has occurred as far as Kashmir is concerned.

Delay in accession and grant of Muslim majority tehsils of Gurdaspur to India that allowed it to maintain a rail and road link with Kashmir were now propagated by the Pakistani press as a conspiracy against Muslims,<sup>13</sup> it is at this point in history that ever lasting suspicious and mistrust between Muslims and white Christians took birth and within days became a monster that thwarted any effort on part of British to interfere and restore the balance of power in sub continent.

The fanatic Muslim militant tribes of Hindu Kush poured into the Kashmir vale through the backing of the provincial government of frontier province, the actions of these tribes was in line with their military and social culture, over 3000 tribes came to the help of the Kashmiris, the men of Poonch who were part of the British Forces in second world war were now demobilised and after years of military activity were now keen to take part in any action, moreover a state of anarchy prevailed in Kashmir vale. Political and diplomatic efforts were launched by both the dominions to persuade Kashmir to join them, Pakistan took it as its right that Kashmir has no other option but to be a part of it for survival, India especially the idealistic Nehru was initially moved by the nostalgia of his home place {he was a Kashmiri Hindu pundit} and simultaneously the importance of Kashmir for the future prosperity of India became apparent, Mountbatten who was supposed to be the governor general of both dominions was publicly humiliated by Mr Jinnah who opted to be the governor general of Pakistan himself, fourth person was Sheikh Abdullah another idealist who wanted a rather free Kashmir and he had a popular base as well, Maharaja Sir Hari Singh the very man who held the decisive card wanted his reign to be safeguarded was the fifth actor of this historical dramas, in his analysis he had a better chance with India.

On 21 October 1947

the tribesmen were twenty odd miles away from the capital Srinagar, the lone power house was destroyed, the tribesmen were savage on the non Muslim population including the European women and children, less than hundred of them perished and British media highlighted this gory episode similar to the killing of British women under Bahadur Shah Zafar's custody in 1857. In nine weeks since independence the exodus of Muslims from east Punjab and with it the tales of violence had engulfed the Punjab and frontier province and it is logical that Kashmir could not remain neutral. It was the thousand year old religious animosity of Muslims against non Muslims and vice versa, the cultural difference between the plains and mountain that resulted in a chaos in the Kashmir state. Pakistan relied upon the tribesmen to capture the Srinagar and with that accession of the state, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1947 a Republic of Kashmir<sup>14</sup> was proclaimed at Rawalpindi Hotel Paris and on 24<sup>th</sup> October it assumed the name of Azad Jammu Kashmir at Muzaffarabad, on 26<sup>th</sup> October Maharaja signed his accession agreement with India which was accepted by the Mountbatten although Nehru, Vallabhai Patel {deputy premier of India} V.P. Menon senior government official,

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p.3. Indian delegate's speech on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1948

<sup>14</sup> Alastair, Lamb. *Incomplete Partition The Genesis of The Kashmir Conflict 1947-1948* {Services Book Club, 1999} p.135.



Mahajan the premier of Kashmir state were in communication with each other over the future of the State, Nehru did point out to the Mountbatten regarding the importance of Kashmir to India. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1947 the governor generals of both dominions met at Lahore , Mr Jinnah still had a faith in the peaceful solution of Kashmir and so did Mountbatten, they both agreed to have a plebiscite in the state ,but Mountbatten insisted on the evacuation of tribesmen<sup>15</sup> from the vale and Mr Jinnah was at pain to explain to him that he has no control over these tribes which Mountbatten from the history knew was correct. Winter halted the war and matter was taken into the UNO. Most important event took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1947 at Gilgit where the 600 strong Gilgit Scouts along with their commandant Major Brown a British officer rebelled against the Kashmir government<sup>16</sup> and as the lease had expired after the transfer of power ,Gilgit and Laddakh including Skardu were now again part of the Kashmir. This is probably the only incident of any British officer in one hundred and fifty years in India to become a rebel against his own very own superiors, the military forces of both dominions was placed under Field Marshall Auckinleck and all commanders of Pakistan and Indian armed forces were British thus this act of Major Brown supports the hypothesis of British safeguarding their strategic interests in Central Asia, against communism through Pakistan as Major Brown soon announced the accession of Gilgit with Pakistan. Gilgit Scouts thus became the nucleus around which the Gilgitis, Baltis, Chilas{ all Muslims} attacked Sikh garrison at Bunji and Skardu capturing Kargil there by cutting the lone Himalayan communication link between Kashmir and Laddakh. This war was independent of the resistance that was being waged all along the Kashmir's border with Pakistan

## TOCHI SCOUTS & KASHMIR WAR

Kashmir War was a convoluted affair, in which Pakistan Army was not taking part officially because of international law and the fact that all the services were being commanded by the British Officers and Kashmir issue was already put in Security Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1948, however a covert operation was planned and put into action under the leadership of 'General Tariq' his Nome de plume, he was colonel Akbar Khan<sup>17</sup>. General Messervy the commander-in- chief was in picture and held the similar view. Tariq was a unit officer of Sadiqullah Khan and both met accidentally at General Headquarters Rawalpindi<sup>18</sup>. The end result was that Tochi Scouts were committed to the Kashmir Cause for the reason that they being a civil armed force did not come under the international law of intervention. Commandant offered a strong company of 200 Tochi Scouts. **This Scouts company was the first Scout assistance that was rendered to the cause of Kashmir by the Pakistan**. Tochi Company went via Peshawar to Rawalpindi and from there one contingent of two platoons under Havildar Mardan were transported to the Muzaffargarh - Chakoti - Uri - Srinagar Axis. The rest of the contingent under Subedar Hamid Gul was transported to

<sup>15</sup> Discussions on Kashmir at Security Council ,p,89,17<sup>th</sup> January 1948.

<sup>16</sup> Alastair,Lamb, *Kashmir Disputed Legacy* ,p,161

<sup>17</sup> Shuja Nawaz, *The First Kashmir War Revisted*, India Review, Vol 7, No.2, April-June 2008, pp.115-154.

<sup>18</sup> *Guardian of Frontier*, p-163.

Jhelum from where they entered into foray, sniping the road Naoshehra – Rajaori which was the first contour of communication moving up from the plains towards Srinagar, where Indians were threatening to concentrate.

*‘ Indian forces had fought a pitched battle against the raiders {Pakisatni} at Naoshehra, who gave the Indians an opportunity to use their heavy weapons and there by inflict heavy casualties...2000 dead out of tribal force of 15000’<sup>19</sup>.*

Subedar Hamid Gul was happy to be here, it was the first time in his service where the enemy was not shrouded, it was the enemy which he has been looking for. Infidel, idol worshipper, men not worthy of being called as men, a culture corrupt to the core, Hindu women who are slave of phallus, worshipper of Shiva. Hamid Gul had no mercy for such a race, he was blood thirsty. 15 years of service in Tochi scouts he had been a gentleman, abiding by the Riway and laws of warfare. Frontier Warfare was not based upon ideology at least from the Tochi Scouts perspective, the force was never used more than what was required, extermination of people or conquest of territory on which the warfare revolves around are not applicable in North Waziristan. This point was misunderstood during the 1919 and 1936 campaigns. Tochi scouts had to live with the tribes and to make them also live in peace thus force is selective in nature but here it was an open war; Hamid Gul was free to hunt the Hindus.

Tochi Scouts were employed for conducting ambushes which they preferred to call it ‘Chapao’ on the Naoshehra – Bhimber and Naoshehra – Rajauri road and in March 1948 were involved in the defence of Jhangar.

Hamid Gul had two successful ‘Chapao’s one at Pir Badesar and other near Chingas. He avoided pitch battle, mere hit and run and hit again. Causing delay and fear among the Hindus. He once had to wait for over four hours in cold to snipe at a Hindu soldier. He is credited with making home made mines which he planted on the road.

In April 1948 new Pakistan Army Chief General Douglas Gracey committed Pakistan Army to the defence of the country and to put a stop to the Indian threat towards the Jhelum Bridges, by stopping the Indian advance not beyond Uri-Poonch-Naoshehra line. His appreciation even today stands as the fundamental of Pakistan’s military strategy

*‘If Pakistan is not to face another serious refugee problem...if India is not to be allowed to sit on the doorsteps of Pakistan to the rear and on the flank...if the civilian and military morale is not to be affected to an dangerous extent and if subversive political forces are not to be encouraged and let loose within Pakistan itself, it is imperative that the Indian Army is not allowed to advance beyond the general line Uri – Punch – Naushehra’<sup>20</sup>*

## CHAKOTI & SUBEDAR HAMID GUL

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid, p-17.

<sup>20</sup> Pakistan Army 1947-49, p – 275.

Tochi Scouts company was transferred to the defence of Chakoti, as part of 101 Infantry Brigade which was responsible for the defence of Jhelum Valley Tochi company was attached with 5/12 FF, 4/10 Baluch and also with 1/13 FF. In May 1948 the Indians had two infantry divisions, No.19 Infantry Division which was the old Srinagar Division & No.26 Infantry division the old Jammu Division. Tochi Scouts had the No.19 Division as the opponent with its two brigades No. 161 & 163 Brigades but mainly it was the latter. The Pakistani commander was Brigadier Akbar Khan { Brigadier Sher Khan had now assumed the Name de Plume of General Tariq }.

From 20<sup>th</sup> May 1948 the action starts when Indian launched their attack. Subedar Gul along with twenty other sepoy were on a patrol rather 'Gasht' on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1948, between Chakoti and Urusa. Hamid Gul and his platoon encountered the Indians; after a pitch battle Subedar Hamid Gul and Sepoys Arsala Khan, Muhammad Khan, Naik Jamroz & Lance Naik Fazal Shah all embraced shahadat. On 31<sup>st</sup> May, Havildar Mardan & Sepoy Mirza Mir also attained shahadat due to enemy artillery fire, on 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> June Sepoy Mehboob Shah also expired due to battle wounds. Sepoy Said Hasan died due to mine blast in 1949 days before the cease fire.<sup>21</sup>.

#### **CHITRAL STATE SCOUTS & CHITRAL STATE BODYGUARDS-1947**

Mehtar of Chitral Muzzafar ul Mulk declared jihad for the liberation of Kashmir, he had already signed an instrument of accession to Pakistan. The force structure at Chitral comprised of Chitral State Scouts and Mehtar's bodyguard. The situation at Gilgit was not very clear because after first week of November 1947 the Gilgit scouts had declared an independence which was very complex in nature and it died down after a fortnight. At this stage the Dogras and Indian Army was moving into the Kashmir. thus the confrontation between the Pakistan and Indian troops remained confined to the east of Indus where as the area west of Indus were left to the Dogra and the Scouts to fight it out with winner taking it all. Situation in Guraiz (Astora Sector) and Skardu valleys was tense and precarious in nature, Gilgit Scouts under command Col. Hassan Gilgiti was retreating. The enemy had made considerable advance across Burzil Pass. It is in this back ground that Chitral Scouts entered into the arena. Chitral Scouts relieved Gilgitis in Kamri and Domel Sectors.

**Gilgit Scouts** thus became the nucleus around which the Gilgitis, Baltis, Chilas (all Muslims) attacked Sikh garrisons at Bunji and Skardu capturing Kargil there by cutting the lone Himalayan communication link between Kashmir and Laddakh. This war was independent of the resistance that was being waged all along the Kashmir's border with Pakistan

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<sup>21</sup> Tochi Scouts, Official Record, MiranShah.

Pakistan government sent Sardar Muhammad Alam and Major Muhammad Aslam as political agent and military commanders respectively. By the end of November 1947 Major Muhammad Aslam under the name de plume of Colonel Pasha organized the available forces into four wings and decided to continue fight for freedom of Baltistan despite approaching winters. Colonel Pasha identified two axis along which enemy could send reinforcements-one was along Bandipura through Tragbal pass, Minimergh and Gilgit whereas the other was along Zoji La, Kargil, Hamzigund and Skardu. The main task, however, was to free Skardu from the Dogra forces. Basing on this identification colonel Pasha organized his four wings into two forces i.e Tiger Force and Ibex Force.

**Tiger Force.** It was commanded by Captain (later Lieutenant Colonel) Hassan Khan. Its task was to capture Tragbal pass and check enemy reinforcement towards Gilgit. The force left Bunji on 3 March 1948 and by mid of March it was able to capture Tragbal Pass. In May 1948 enemy launched an attack with two Brigades. The Tiger Force defended their position relentlessly but ill equipped and ill fed 300 troops could not hold on for long and had to withdraw from the Pass on 16 May 1948. They, however, took up positions about 20 miles behind where they stayed on till cease fire.

**Ibex Force.** This force was commanded by Major Ehsan Ali of Hunza. Its task was to free Baltistan and advance right up to Kargil, Dras and Zoji La Pass to stop enemy reinforcement along Indus Valley. It left Bunji along Indus River on 29 January 1948. After clearing enemy resistance at Rondu the force encamped at Sondus in the foot of Kharpocho forte. Muslim elements in the Dogra force had silently joined Major Ehsan Ali and it was decided to attack Skardu on night 22-23 February 1948. Everything went as planned but unfortunately the sentry who had to fire green signal fired red one by mistake and hence chance for a surprise attack was lost. Fierce fight ensued but Major Ehsan Ali had to withdraw to reorganize and regroup.

Enemy started reinforcing Skardu and a brigade size force was approaching from Indus Valley side. This force was successfully ambushed at ThorgoPari and huge quantity of weapon, ammunition and ration was captured. Siege of Skardu continued till August 1948 since enemy had been supplying the garrison by air. On 14 August 1948, exactly one year after Pakistan's Independence, Skardu was surrendered by Dogra forces.

**Eskimo Force.** After unsuccessful attack on Skardu in February 1948, Colonel Pasha organized another force at Chilam Chauki under Lieutenant Colonel Shah Khan. The force was named Eskimo force. It had to capture Kargil, Dras and Zoji La Passes which was initially the task of Ibex force. This force successfully captured Kargil and completed the siege of Dras when they were joined by Ibex Force. These two forces combined played havoc with enemy and were able to capture Kargil, Dras, Zoji la Pass and had invested Leh as well. At this point in time, General Headquarters replaced Colonel Pasha with Colonel Jilani who decided to strengthen his positions at Kargil, Dras and Zojila and abandoned the idea to attack Leh. The major considerations for this were lack of resources and over dispersion of forces.

## **HIS HIGHNESS COLONEL MUTTAH UL MULK, VICTOR OF SKARDU.**

Ruler of the state and honorary colonel of Chitral State Scouts Mehtar Muzzafar ul Mulk sent his bodyguards to fight along the Chitral Scouts.. He sent two companies of bodyguards under command his younger brother Mutath ul Mulk; who was given the rank of colonel, other two brothers namely Prince Burhan and ...prince wee also sent there. The first wave of mujahedeen from Chitral had gone in early adys of October 1947 towards the Kashmir , this was comprised of lashkar from Drosh led by Haider ul Mulk, Amin ul Mulk & Saif Ullah Jan , out of which Saif embraced shahadat at Noushehra; these mujahedeen later acme back to Drosh.

Chitral State Scouts two companies were also under the overall command of Prince Muttah ul Mulk. Captain Agha Asghar Ali{ he was wounded and reverted back to Chitral after a month}, honorary lieutenant Abdul Rauf Khan, subedar Jan Badshah. The Scouts companies were deployed and employed on the Guraiz- Kargil sector.

Gilgit after the freedom act of Gilgit Scouts was still under the threat of the Dogra forces stationed at Skardu and Leh. There was a company strength at Skardu under Captain Parbat Singh as a reinforcement to the Dogra Battalion, another Dogra officer Captain Kishen Singh was holding the Tsari Pass the mouth leading to the Skardu along the Indus going upstream. Brigadier Faqir Singh was the overall commander with headquarters at Kargil. The bodyguards led by prince { [himself a WW2 veteran of Burma, became a POW in the hands of Japanese also}, he led the bodyguards towards the Gilgit.

Prince Muttah ul Mulk was a classical princely officer {he married a Chinese women while in Japanese prison during WW2}, brave and leader of men; he will always be remembered as the Victor of Skardu.

He reached Skardu via Deosai plains{15000 feet}, adopting and circumnavigating the Indian held Tsari Pass and thus descended down upon the Skardu City from north east where as the Dogras had their troops stretched on south east; the only tarck coming into the Skardu Bowl along the Indus upstream., he had achieved the surprise with his two companies of bodyguards and laid the siege, the Skardu garrison was held strongly by the Dogra army at the almost impregnable fort on Indus. There was nothing which could be done by bodyguards except to bleed the Dogra which they did by remaining steadfast and with standing the few enemy air attacks on them. Every night these Chitralis would climb the rugged and difficult mountain terrain and try to reach near the fort. Finally they were successful and Dogra commander Colonel Sher surrendered to the Bodyguards<sup>22</sup>. However 180 of his men refused to do so and tried to escape out of which 80 were captured and remaining died in the escape. Some of the bodyguards who stood out in the campaign includes Lieutenant Sardar Aman Shah, Kahdim Dastigir, Ali Dyar, Atai Karim, Ayub Khan, Abu Ilas Khan, Abdul Jihan Khan, Sher Arab Khan, Wilayat Khan, Mehrab Hussain , Muhababt Khan and Muhamamd

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<sup>22</sup> Lieutenant colonel Mirza Hasasn, shamsher say zanjeer tak, urdu, autobiography, 1979, pp, 250-279.

Gul. There were ten shaheed from bodyguard including Sirajud Din, Jeidi Kahn, Akbar Kahn, Sobi Khan, Dawa Paanh, Nawab Kahn, Barzangi Khan and Mirza Nadir<sup>23</sup>.

Bodyguards were a pack of Chitrali commoners who were having insufficient clothing and food, ‘ one old shirt, torn shalwar, an vintage chooga{coat}....a shredded scarf which tried to cover their neck, feet from the customary socks, a torn chappali or old shoe which was kept working with innumerable laces or clothes wrapped around it’.<sup>24</sup>

Mutath ul Mulk had sent a letter on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1948 to the besieged Dogra force at Skardu ‘ i advice you to surrender .. I take the responsibility of your safety’.<sup>25</sup> On 19<sup>th</sup> June the besieged commander Lieutenant Colonel Thapha sent his emissary sepoy Amarnath with a white flag to Muttah ul Mulk accepting surrender terms under Geneva Convention. Captain Ganga Singh was handed over to the natives of Skardu who executed him for his crimes of rape and turning the mosque into a brothel house.

Colonel Mutath ul Mulk did not had a peaceful end, he was arrested on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1948 at Peshawar on war crimes, tried and put behind the bars at Peshawar he was later released in October 1949 and reinstated as Governor of Mastuj, he died on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1948 leaving behind four sons.

**Asmat Wali’s Diary.** Nursing assistant of Chitral State Scouts Baba Asmat Wali died in 1988, he took part in Kashmir Jihad of 1948 , more importantly he left a diary of the account. Distance from Chitral to Kamri was 420 miles which they covered in 38 days, Asmat on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1948 notes in his diary ‘ saw Pakistan currency at a shop , Government of Pakistan was written on the currency note’. He also notes down the change of command at Gilgit Scouts where Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Jan was transferred and Major Tufail took over the command of Gilgit scouts. Asmat also mentions the Indian counterpart Colonel Suba Lal Chand who according to him was a shrewd man. But the most touching part of his diary is the account of an old women in Mini merg , a rich widow who sacrificed over twenty five goats for the scouts in four months for the scouts because they were extremely short on ration’. Asmat when arrived back as victor to his native town in November 1949 came to know that he had lost his sister in his absence she had died almost immediately when he had left for Jihad but her mother intentionally did not let pass the information to him.

Naib subedar Islam Shah, he had joined the Chitral Scouts in 1932 and he fought extremely well in the Kashmir War for which he was promoted to present rank something which was purely reserved for the Kator family , on his promotion many other subedars of Kator family resigned. Khuda Baksh Utrai was another scout who was promoted to the rank of Jemadar due to his performance in the action, he was the very first havildar major of the Chitral State scouts

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<sup>23</sup> Iqrara Ud din khusro, Chitral aur chitral scouts Tareekh kaay ainey mein, {urdu} unpublished, the writer is a naik in Chitral scouts,

<sup>24</sup> Shamsheer say zanjeer, p-271.

<sup>25</sup> Muhammad Yousaf , Tareeq Baltisatn, p- 268

## AN INTERVIEW WITH VETERAN OF FIRST KASHMIR WAR

*Interview was conducted at Sonoghar in Mastuj Valley, Chitral. September 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.*

‘We set off for the veteran Nadir who was still sitting under the tree but there were two additional chairs also put there, I occupied one and Amin who also acted as the interpreter did other.

The children all sat around, there was only the spring water flowing melody, the walnut tree had a big hole in it and I enquired about its age and got the nodded affirmative. There was sun and there was shade also, in the close by distance was few fields having the sunrays falling in the middle and brightening up the already cheerful environs. Few women {two} were standing at rather far distance out of ear shot but looking after the grazing cows which numbered equal in strength in addition to the young calf.

Bit of silence as I absorbed the beauty and in any case you do not just go and ask the veteran a question, in most of cases it takes bit of time to understand each other especially for me to start the question, in this case when I asked him, when were you enrolled? And got a puzzled look, it became obvious that he does not understand Urdu thus Amin asked the same and that is how I got it. I could understand few words and thus makes out the whole purpose, old man like so many others do not use hand signs frequently. Nadir was enrolled in 1945 in Chitral sate Scouts at Drosh and in 1961 got his retirement papers from Drosh too. During 1947-48 Kashmir War he was part of artillery battery, it took nine mules to carry one howitzer. They moved through the Shandur pass towards the Gilgit amidst the snow and extreme freezing temperature; they had very little warm clothing with them as it was promised to be supplied at Gilgit. Nadir and the Chitral scouts remain committed for another seven months. Nadir highlighted that the Chitral staes and Chitral Body guard fought the war separately. Nadir was deployed at gurais with his guns for another seven months before they were pushed back. Nadir used to get Rupees 2 only, mainly for purchase of milk, although the pay then was rupees 22/ but Nadir like all other men got it after coming home, in case of nadir it was rupees 400/ quite a sum in those days. There was little ration and insufficient warm clothing at the front. Captain rauf was in charge of the gunners, Major Mohiuddin who was the brother of Mastuj governor was in charge of the scouts contingent, thus ina way the princely family of Mehtar were all engaged actively in the liberation of Kashmir. For ration Nadir went out on hunting and hunted markhoor, they ate the meat, preserved it, presented the head to the officer in charge and made shoes and coat out of the rest; this is how nadir started living as the son of soil. For trouser the army issued blanket was made. Nadir hated the trouser but it was made compulsory to be worn by the officer in charge ‘ thus I would put it on for his pleasure and parade and would quickly changed into shalwar’. During the operations the Indian Air force attacked many times and it was in one such attack that two scouts embraced shahadat, ‘ we would rush towards the cover as soon as we heard the aircraft noise’.

Sultan Jawan alias Manoor, is another brave son of soil who took active part in the Gilgit War of 1947. Sultan Khan Murdaan was born in 1924 at Village Murdaan and join Chitral scouts in 1945 and took active part in 1948 War as Bren gunner, he embraced shahadat 40 kilometres short of Srinagar in a hand to hand fight with enemies. Another stalwart of the area and of 1947 War is Islam Shah who retired as naib subedar, he was enrolled in Chitral Scouts in 1932, he died a natural death in 1990. Ghair Dum Shah Chaweelo who has died in 2002 was another brave scout of Chitral.

## **KASHMIR JEHAD & KHYBER RIFLES.**

*Kashmir, in Sanskrit, implies land desiccated from water: “ka” (the water) and shimeera (to desiccate)* Kashmir a land locked Himalayan kingdom comprising of 86000 square kilometres and half a million people all overwhelmingly Muslims, like other princely states, Kashmir was supposed to join one of the dominions but it initially delayed but later the independence wave which started from Poonch soon engulfed the whole of Kashmir. The tribesmen from the tribal areas soon swarmed upon the valley in aid of their Muslim brethren, Jihad was declared and war continued for another year before cease fire line was agreed upon in January 1949.

In April/May 1948 four platoons of Khyber Rifles under command Subedar Major Azim Khan were sent to Kashmir to participate in the operation along with the lashkar. Soon after the subedar major was replaced by Captain Karamat Ullah Khan, the Adjutant of the Corps. Khyber Rifles was attached with 4 Baluch Regiment now 11 Baluch at Bib Dori. 4 Baluch was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Kelly (later Commandant of South Waziristan Scouts).

In May, June and July active patrolling were carried to dominate the No Mans Land. During the period a very important ambush was laid. The place selected was Khatir Nar. Two platoons (one from 4 Baluch and one from Khyber Rifles) were selected to lay the ambush. It was a complete surprise and very successful. The Indian suffered fifteen casualties. Arms and ammunition were captured. This ambush had salutary effect and the Indians became very sensitive and avoided patrolling in the “No Man’s”. Our troops regained the initiative by vigorous patrolling. With the help of lashkar several jittering actions were taken.



By the end of July our own troops and intelligence had fair idea of enemy dispositions and strength. Therefore, it was decided to plan a big raid however by the middle of August the idea of a big raid was changed into an attack and capture of Pandu. Harvey Kelly, being an English man, was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel (Later Major General ) Sher Bahadur. Plan originally made by Kelly remained intact with minor modifications.

4 Baluch plus a company of 17 Baluch on night 19/20 August to move to Gujar Bandi – stay put on 20 August (this risk was taken because of Indians timidity in patrolling the “No man’s land” area. On night 20/21 August this force to be divided into columns as under:-

Two companies under Major (Later Lt Col) Hafiz Afridi to capture Pandu Point, a vital ground, (this force consisted of one company ex 4 Baluch and one company ex 17 Baluch). Rest of 4 Baluch under the personal Command of Lt Col Sher Bahadur to capture Pandu Village. Two platoons of Khyber Rifles plus two companies of Muzaffarabad Battalion and Lashkar Mohmand, under Command Major Karamt Ullah Khan to move on night 19/20 August to Nardajian – Kandar Kuzi forest and capture Ring Contour thus blocking the Indians route of withdrawal to Chotta Kazinag and also to mystify the enemy of our main thrust. Two companies of Muzaffarabad Battalion and two platoons of Khyber Rifles to remain in their present positions.

A Lashkar of Mahsud to occupy a position between Pandu village and Point 6873 to cut the route of withdrawal of troops at point 6873. Artillery support to be given by artillery regiment under command Major (Later Brigadier) Shami.

### **Chronological Events**

On night 19/20 August the main force under command Lieutenant Colonel Sher Bahadur moved to the concentration area at Gujar Bandi. This force remained hidden on 20<sup>th</sup> August in the same place. On night 21/21 August the force moved as planned. One column under Major Hafiz Afridi moved to Pandu Point. This force reached the objective before dawn and occupied the position. Luckily the enemy was not occupying this vital ground although the position had been well prepared by means of strong bunkers.

The rest of the force under Lt Col Sher Bahadur advance to Pandu village by a different route and enroute met opposition and taken by surprise. It was very difficult to assail this unexpected opposition. Taking up positions in darkness and to wait till next morning

would have given chance to the Indians to retaliate. Moreover, the main force would have been delayed and thus diverted, from their aim of capturing Pandu village. Lt Col Sher very rightly decided to contain this enemy force with a platoon and skirted this position. Local guides were of great help in this bold and correct decision. By morning of 21 August the main force attacked Pandu village. This position was very strong and on the top of it enemy force at F.1, F.2 and F.3 started withdrawal that day. The Mahsud Lashkar could not effectively block them. This was a very unfortunate thing for our main force because the enemy force withdrawal bumped into it and shot us from behind in order to join their forces at Pandu village. Our main force suffered casualties and enemy forces from F.1, F.2 and F.3 joined their main force. At this juncture news came that our own forces had occupied Pandu point. Again the commander very correctly withdrew his force from this battle and joined own force at Pandu peak. This was vital ground and the enemy at Pandu village came under effective observation and fire from this place.

**Karamat Force of Khyber Rifles** as it was called also moved from Bib Dori the same night as the main force i.e on 19/20 August. The force reached Nardajia and remained hidden the whole day of 20 August. On night 20/21 August the force marched by a path to Kathar Nar and from there through very difficult terrain of the Kandar Kunzi forest. Due to thick shrubs the movement was very slow, when the force reached a point enroute, the enemy (probably patrol) opened up. After a sharp exchange of fire, the enemy withdrew to his main position at Akram where the fire exchange lasted till the afternoon of 21 August when the place was charged and captured. The enemy left behind a few dead and one prisoner of war, lot of ammunition, food and clothing. Two platoons of Khyber Rifles occupied Akram while the two platoons of Muzaffarabad Battalion were sent to Gul which was also occupied. Patrols were sent to Pandu village which were fired upon. This was a clear indication that Pandu village was still occupied by Indians. The wireless communication broke down with the main force owing to the small set and thick jungle.

The Mohmand Lashkar after the capture of the place, busied themselves in the loot and some bolted with the loot. The Mahsud Lashkar also reached their assigned place but unfortunately they could not block the troops at F-1, F-2 and F-3 from rejoining the main force at Pandu. However, their presence in the area was of immense advantage. The Indians were afraid of them and the use of Chura (Knife) of Waziristan days was still fresh in their minds.

During all these operations, the guns of Major Shami were of immense help and morale boosting. This energetic Officer was to be seen everywhere and remained in the thick of battle throughout.

Vigorous patrolling was carried out on night 21/22 August in order to find out enemy extent and strength at Pandu village. 4 Baluch was ordered to launch an attack on this village on 23 August. At the same time 2/12 FF Regiment was also ordered to join 4 Baluch and to be ready to capture Chota Kazinag. After the capture of Chota Kazinag, Karamat Force was to exploit it upto Chinal Dori. This order was received by all concerned and hectic preparations started.

On night 22/23 August, the Indians started shelling our positions very intensely and every one of us expected an Indian attack that night or at dawn. On the morning of 23 August however, the Indians attack did not come but when 4 Baluch and 2/12 FFR advanced on Pandu village, it was found vacant. The enemy had slipped and this huge shelling was a ruse for the withdrawal of the troops at Pandu village. The enemy had withdrawn via Sufaida Gap – Bala Sethu – Gundigeran.

The enemy left behind huge dump of ammunition, ration and weapons at Pandu. After capture of Pandu liaison was made by the main force with Karamat Force at Akram. On 24 August 2/12 FFR moved via route Akram – Gul to Chota Kazinag. The enemy by then had occupied Chota and had sent patrols up. These patrols were pushed back by 2/12 FF Regiment. In the mean time Karamat Force also followed 2/12 FF Regiment, so that it should be ready at hand to exploit upto Chinal Dori once Kazinag was captured. The day was cloudy and occasionally it was drizzling and visibility was poor. 2/12 FF Regiment steadily advanced and captured point 10425. The company commander was unable to observe the Point 10657, which was only 250 Yards off due to fog and mist. He thus reported that Kazinag had been captured. It was a signal for Karamat Force to advance to Chinal Dori. This was more or less going in single file due to narrow path and sheer cliffs on either side, from point 10657, heavy machine gun fire was encountered and the leading section sustained casualties. The intensity of fire indicated that Kazinag was strongly occupied and also due to the narrow approach to the position it was not considered advisable to pursue the advance. Troops were withdrawn to 2/12 FF position. Two Coys of Muzaffarabad Bn were then sent to Chinal Dori via Chitrian and it was reported that, position was also occupied in strength.

Thus the battle of Pandu ended in the capture of Pandu peak, Pandu village. Chota Kazinag i.e substantial area on account of this operation. Indians also withdrawn from their Chakthi position in order to straighten up their defence lay out. In this very important operation Khyber Rifles showed its worth and proved that it was second to none.

## **MIZH MAHSUD.**

On independence the battalion was busy in the construction of Balakot road. The heroic deeds of the battalion during the first Kashmir War of 1947-1948 are one of the golden chapters of its history. It was unarmed yet when the opportunity arises of helping the brother Muslims in the Kashmir the Mahsud rushed forward. The battalion was not officially employed in the war rather the scouts were encouraged to take part in the liberation of Kashmir voluntarily. From November 1947 onwards when Gilgit Scouts had carried out the war of liberation in Gilgit and Baltistan which resulted in the war being stretched to the limit in the extreme north , it was then that the battalion was given the task of constructing and improving the existing track leading to Gilgit; Babusar Pass .

Major Mir Badshah Mahsud and Subedar Major Muhammad Akbar Mahsud wrote the very first chapter of Mahsud's bravery under Frontier Corps. Major Badshah was decorated with Fakhr-i-Kashmir, hilal-1- Kashmir and Imtiaz Sanad for his excellent command of Mahsud. Subedar Major Muhammad Akbar was decorated with Sitara-i- Jurat; he is the very first Mahsud to be decorated with such decoration. Words about Major Mir Badshah, there were two officers with same name and both commanded 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Mahsud battalions. One Major Bad Shah MBE is from Baluch regiment who commanded 2<sup>nd</sup> mahsud from 14<sup>th</sup> October 1952 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1953 and again from August 1953 – November 1953, the other Major Badshah is from General List and commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Mahsud from 1951-1959<sup>26</sup>.

Both the Mizh Mahsud were employed in Titwal Sector, 2<sup>nd</sup> mahsud Battalion was decorated with Tamgha –i- Difa. After the cease fire these battalions were back to construction of road so vital for the maintenance of troops in forward areas. Mr Liaqat Ali Khan during his visit to the Dir in November 1949 has the distinction of visiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mahsud Battalion; he was presented with Rupees 500 by the battalion as a contribution in Quaid-e- Azam memorial fund. Twelve mile long road that connects Garhi Habibullah to Balakot was completed in 1955; it took three years of hard work by the Mizh Mahsud. Another remarkable feather in the cap is the construction of 17 miles long and arduous road connecting Lowari Top with Mirkani Post took five years and was commissioned in 1960. Lowari Top road was initially constructed by the 1<sup>st</sup> mahsud Battalion in 1949 it connects Dir with Chitral. Malakand hydro-electric project was initiated in 1950 and was completed by end 1952 by the 1<sup>st</sup> mahsud Battalion, similarly Kaghan Valley road was initiated in 1953 later the project was abandoned

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<sup>26</sup> Frontier Corps an introduction, p-161.